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A Briefing Guide

#2

for Planning on the Targhee National Forest

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GREETINGS

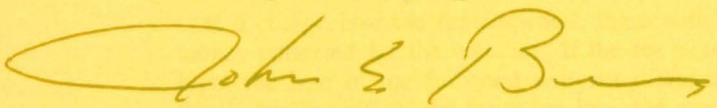
This briefing guide is part of our effort to seek public understanding and assistance in formulating a land management plan for the Targhee National Forest. I hope it will be helpful to you.

Multiple use on a national forest is really an overlapping pattern or mosaic of uses. Obviously, you can't have all uses on one piece of land; everything can't be done on every acre. In some instances, we must make a choice between competing or conflicting uses. Planners call the pros and cons of such conflicting "tradeoffs". A tradeoff is what you give up to gain something else.

The briefing guide discusses the management choices involved with the issues identified in our first round of public involvement. It does not contain a lot of facts but instead tries to highlight the "tradeoffs" that should be considered in resolving the issues. We have also included a list of "ranges" for the solutions to the issues. These are the sideboards based on law, supply, or whatever that tend to set the limits on how much latitude we have in reaching solutions to the issues.

Keep in mind that the briefing guide is just intended as an idea stimulator. We will now begin to formulate alternative management proposals, and an understanding of the "tradeoffs" involved in each will be important.

Thank you for your interest and help. I hope you will join us in our next round of public meetings in the spring.



JOHN E. BURNS

Forest Supervisor

ISSUE #1 FIREWOOD

How Should the Targhee National Forest Manage the Firewood Resource?

"You can't have everything on one piece of land. This Briefing Guide #2 does not contain a lot of facts, but instead tries to highlight the tradeoffs that should be considered in resolving the issues."

Other issues impacted: transportation, large and small sales, law enforcement, budget, manpower, local economy, national energy scarcity, wildlife.

One problem in the question of charge versus no-charge is allocation. The beetle epidemic is on the downswing. The amount of dead wood is limited. As the Targhee offers more free firewood, less wood will be available to large and small sales that return money to the treasury. Without money from these sales, the local economy will suffer. Many mills, large or small, will close. Some people will become unemployed. One quarter of all money received from the sale of timber on the Targhee returns to the county where the money is collected. The counties rely on this money for schools and roads.

As the easy-to-reach firewood along the roads becomes scarce, new roads will have to be built. Timber sales help pay the costs of building roads. If free firewood is emphasized over small and large sales, the amount of money for building roads will decrease.

If a charge is made for firewood, there will be money collected for the counties. If the fee is too high, the cost of the firewood will not offset the family heating bill. If the fee is too low, the return will not adequately defray the cost of the road nor aid the counties' revenue.

It costs money to charge money as certified bill collectors and bills must be present during the transaction. One district alone has a free permit system that accommodates over 11,000 persons each year. Those 11,000 might have to transact directly with Forest Service employees rather than using the permit booth if a fee is charged.

The Forest Service receives a large share of money from Congress according to the amount of timber it offers for sale. Free use firewood does not count toward the amount offered for sale. Free firewood is not considered a part of the recognized removal of timber from a forest. A forest that offers a small volume for sale gets less money and therefore has fewer personnel. With fewer personnel it is more difficult to manage a firewood program.

As the easy-to-reach firewood along the roads becomes scarce, new roads will have to be built.

The firewood activity requires access to the dead trees by vehicle. If more people were allowed on all Targhee roads, including ones currently closed, there could be a major reduction in wildlife habitat quality and wildlife numbers and varieties. If we don't open roads, much timber dies and falls to the ground before it can be harvested for commercial or free firewood use.

By dispersing firewood cutters it is difficult to be sure that regulations and laws are being followed. Certain areas need fuel removal to reduce fire danger, so by concentrating people in certain areas, firebreaks are created quickly. By concentrating people, dead wood can be removed first. However, safety problems increase and people have more difficulty finding easy-to-reach and quality dead wood.

When slash piles are burned, fire hazard is reduced in dead timber stands. However, a burned slash pile wastes good wood. On the other hand, when people cut wood in the slash piles, the wood is rescattered and the firebreak becomes less effective. Dirt, piled in the slash piles by dozers, can create problems in fuel burning efficiency.

If we try to balance the commercial sales and free firewood, there may not be enough to sustain both. If we offer the wood in a large sale, there will be money for more roads but less free wood. If we offer small sales for firewood access, we will need to use only existing roads, as there will be no money for new roads.

If firewood is sold and thus costs the same as small sales, we would need to increase the number of Forest Service employees. Small firewood sales would need to be marked. Some firewood sales might have to be

advertised. Selling firewood can be a much more time consuming process than opening an area to free use. The price of firewood would need to be high to support roads.

Access roads to firewood sale areas would need to be built. Money would need to be collected. A system of who could get the sale areas and when the sales would be offered would need to be started. Sale areas would need to be marked as required by law. Districts have a ceiling limit and are limited to a certain number of employees. A lot of small sales require more personnel.

If a major power company would buy the firewood, it would return revenues to the county and Forest Service but the local people would have little firewood. There is a limited supply for a limited time to support a major company. The cost of wood would be reflected in the public's heating bill.

If too many personnel are performing law enforcement, there are fewer persons available to mark and identify areas for new roads and firewood access and perform other district duties. If law enforcement is stressed, other parts of the timber program might suffer. Too much enforcement takes valuable time from the legal woodcutter.

If enforcement is not maintained, 1) more fires could be caused by lack of required fire prevention equipment, 2) more safety problems could occur, 3) more theft of wood for purposes of use other than firewood could occur, 4) more people could steal from logging areas where legal sales have already occurred and 5) more persons could take more than the allowable amount.

"Emphasis of one resource, always results in tradeoffs (losses) and impacts for other resources."

ISSUE #2 TIMBER: REFORESTATION

What Are Appropriate Timber Management Objectives, Compatible With Protecting Other Surface Resources?

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Other issues impacted: threatened and endangered species, wildlife, large and small sales, firewood, roads, budget, personnel, grazing.

The amount of reforestation money given to the Forest Service can vary each year. A recent ceiling on employees and mileage has impacted the reforestation program.

Outside bid contracts are put up for tree planting each year. Tree planting can be done only in the spring to ensure success in growth and survival.

Young trees are grown for two years in the Lucky Peak Nursery near Boise, Idaho, from the seeds of trees cut or still living in the same area from which they were taken. This ensures the young tree will probably survive since it is returning to its same place and climate of birth. The tree cones are usually chosen from the best growing trees during a few weeks in the fall. The number of trees that the nursery can accommodate and the number of seeds that can be picked are limited, therefore only so many trees are returned for reforestation each year. The planting season is also limited to a short two month interval in the spring. After an area is clearcut, reforestation can usually occur naturally or with tree planting. Although it is desirable to replant an area as quickly as possible after cutting to ensure fast regrowth, the current beetle epidemic has placed stress on selling most of the wood to get rid of it before it falls and is no longer useful in mills or as building material. If a tree has been dead more than 4 years, it cannot be made into the standard 2X4 since it will crack and split easily. The Targhee, therefore, has put more emphasis in time and personnel and effort into the sale of the standing trees than into reforestation. Yet getting a new crop of trees is desirable so that there will be a continued new growth in the future.

Another discouraging development when reforestation is postponed is the proliferation of gophers in clearcut areas. Gophers increase in numbers the longer the time between cutting and planting. Gophers chew the roots and tops of young trees and kill them. As much as 75% of the new crop that is planted in some areas of Ashton and Island Park could be dead next year if there is no gopher control. Buried strychnine pellets are currently used to reduce the gopher population and are 90% effective.

Cleanup of unused wood is generally written into a timber sale contract. Piling the slash by hand is time consuming so most slash is generally bulldozed into a pile. If the amount of time for cleanup is too costly, the timber won't be profitable. Cleanup after harvest costs manpower and money.

Slash is piled and burned to reduce fuel hazard since a lot of dead limbs on the ground are good burning material for unwanted forest fires. The slash piles are also burned to improve visual quality. If the

Another discouraging development when reforestation is postponed is the proliferation of gophers in clearcut areas.

slash is not burned or piled, the fuel hazard increases, and the land, scattered with numerous tree limbs, is ugly to look at. By piling slash with a dozer, the ground is "scarified" exposing a fertile soil for new seeds.

If the public is allowed to use wood in the slash piles, the slash is sometimes rescattered, becomes a fire hazard again, and is considered ugly. However, if the public can't use the wood, waste occurs.

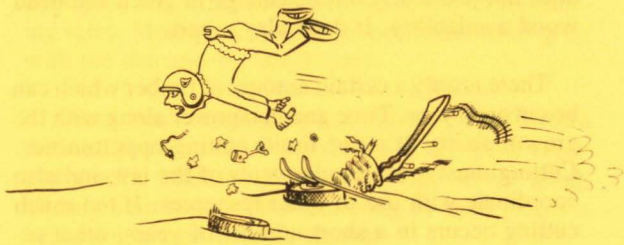
The most common manner of piling slash, by bulldozer, is the cheapest and most effective way in current use. However, the dirt and other debris mixed with the slash pile by the dozer reduces the pile's desirability as firewood quality.

Clearcutting has become a national controversy. In some areas, clearcuts on steep slopes and/or exposure of the new young trees to intense sunlight will harm their growth and cause water and erosion problems. The lodgepole pine, however, grows best in clearcut areas, since it grows best on moderate slopes or flatlands where the soil has been disturbed and there is plenty of sunlight. Clearcutting of lodgepole in flat areas results in increased water flow.

The negative aspect of clearcutting is the encouragement of lodgepole pine species regrowing (thereby continuing a single species) and reducing the amount of cover for wildlife. A single species forest can encourage recurring fatal epidemic bouts with insects and disease such as the pine bark beetle. Clearcutting increases the diversity of habitat types, encourages regrowth of new vegetation and clears the area of fallen trees which are stopping migration of big game and creating a fire hazard.

Wildlife require a certain amount of timber for shelter and hiding cover for survival. The benefits of large clearcuts is the removal of a greater number of the dead or dying lodgepole at a quicker, less expensive pace. Small clearcuts provide better cover for wildlife. If they are too small, the clearcut is not profitable for the commercial timber contractor and they are more difficult to administer. If they are too large, the clearcuts expose the shallow root system of the lodgepole to winds which will further topple remaining wildlife cover. Small clearcuts have less visual and wildlife impacts; large clearcuts are more noticeable and are less desirable from a visual and wildlife standpoint.

In order to keep up with beetle-killed stands, winter logging can help the mills continue working, get out more of the dying wood before it is no longer useful to mills and keep more local people employed. However, winter logging leaves unsightly high stumps at the snow level, increases snowmobile and logging truck safety conflicts, increases poor road quality, and increases the work load on Forest Service personnel.



Winter logging leaves unsightly high stumps at the snow level.

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ISSUE #3 TIMBER: CHANGING TIMBER BASE

What Effects Will a Changing Timber Resource Base Have On Timber Management Objectives and Economic Needs?

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Other issues impacted: large and small sales, local economy, national energy, wildlife, transportation, budget, manpower.

A major problem in cutting the vast amount of insect-killed timber on the Targhee is the accessibility. The easiest timber to reach is cut first. As the "roadside" amount of timber declines, more roads must be built. More areas can be cut and sold, but it takes time to build the roads to reach some of these

areas. The time delay means that a lot of wood dies from the beetle. Dead wood is lower quality than live wood for large saw mills. This decline in the quality of wood being cut changes the uses for which the timber may be used.

The wood industry has many uses for green timber: sawtimber, house logs, and chips. The change in quality, and therefore the product, results in change for the wood industry. If the market is flooded with all dead wood, then the economy of this area will definitely reflect this. The value of the timber on the Targhee has declined in the past several years because of the amount of dead wood. The decline in the value of timber is reflected in the sale prices. Many operators have gone out of business because logging became unprofitable. Although this loss of profit does not rest solely on the change in green and dead wood availability, it does play a part.

There is only a certain amount of timber which can be cut each year. Time and manpower along with the growth ability of a tree limits cutting opportunities. Cutting must meet requirements of the law and also coordinate with use of other resources. If too much cutting occurs in a short number of years, other resources for future years will be altered such as wildlife and grazing.

When the timber resource reaches its lowest quality (a lot of dead wood), the amount available for sale will decline. Fewer timber sales will be offered and will usually be of smaller size. If the amount of timber offered does not change and cutting remains constant or increases, there will be no more trees for the future and other resources will be hurt, especially wildlife.

The decline in timber quality changes the product being cut. Sales may reflect this change. Many sales may be offered as cordwood or "salvage". If only sawtimber is offered then a great deal of the timber base is wasted.

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ISSUE #4 TIMBER: INSECT AND DISEASE PROBLEM

How Should the Targhee National Forest Manage Present and Future Disease and Insect Problems?

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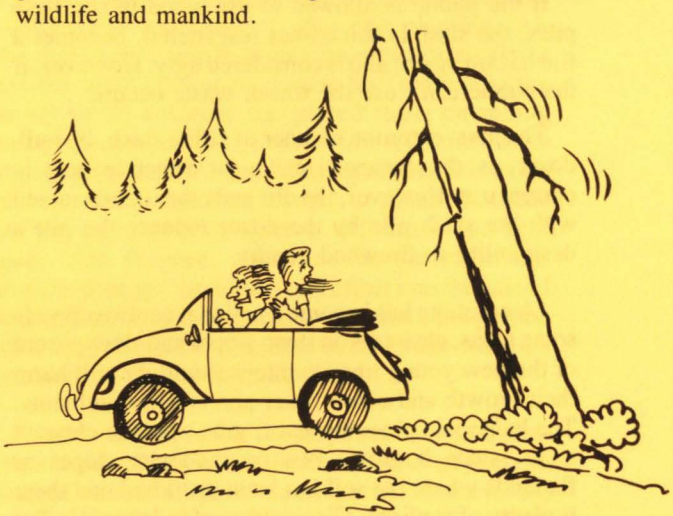
Other issues impacted: large and small sales, reforestation, local economy, firewood, transportation, money, manpower, wildlife.

If the current insect and disease epidemic is allowed to take a natural course, most lodgepole trees (70% of the Targhee's forest is lodgepole) will eventually die and blow down, creating a high build up of dead fuel. When lightning strikes, nature will cleanup the mess by burning the dead wood in a wildfire. The fire would open the seeds in the cones and a "new" forest would be born.

If no action is taken against the insect and disease problem, there would be a safety problem. Trees would fall across roadways and block many of the seldom used forest roads. The loss of timber to insect and disease is not pleasant to observe. The sight of dead and dying timber does not make an enjoyable Sunday afternoon drive. Dead timber lying on the ground makes a walk through the woods difficult for wildlife and mankind.



Dead and dying timber does not make an enjoyable Sunday afternoon drive.

Control of insect and disease problems should be coordinated with other resources. If insecticides are used, their effects on vegetation, water and wildlife must be considered. The cost of spraying is very expensive and requires an increase of personnel working on such projects. Although the spray used in the 60's did not kill the mountain pine beetle, it did slow their speed. Another problem, when trying to control the beetle with the use of insecticides, is that adjacent lands to the Targhee, specifically Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, do not use artificial means to control insect and disease problems. The national parks allow nature to take its course. The Targhee is easily reinfested by insect or disease problems from adjacent lands.

By cutting the timber, the Targhee is replacing the use of spray and natural fire. "Salvage" (cutting of dead wood) programs are underway to use the timber which otherwise would blow down and rot or burn. Cutting some of the dead and dying timber creates "fuel breaks" (areas cleared of all wood) within the forest which lessens the chances of a large fire over the entire forest. Cutting scattered patches of timber reduces the chances of another beetle epidemic in the future. Several different ages of trees scattered across the forest makes it more difficult for the insects to move as rapidly. (The beetle likes mature trees close to each other for best survival.)

After harvesting an area, attempts could be made to regenerate an area with a variety of tree species. This would lessen the impact of another insect outbreak. Planting a variety of species has been limited in this area. Research into other types of trees which could adapt to the Targhee soil types, climate, snowfall, and slopes would need to be evaluated. This program would increase regeneration. It would also ignore natural regrowth which would normally occur.

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ISSUE #5 TIMBER: SMALL SALES

At What Level Should the Targhee National Forest Provide Small Sales For Business and Personal Needs?

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Other issues impacted: recreation, large and small sales, firewood, Christmas trees, soils and water, transportation, money, manpower, local economy, wildlife.

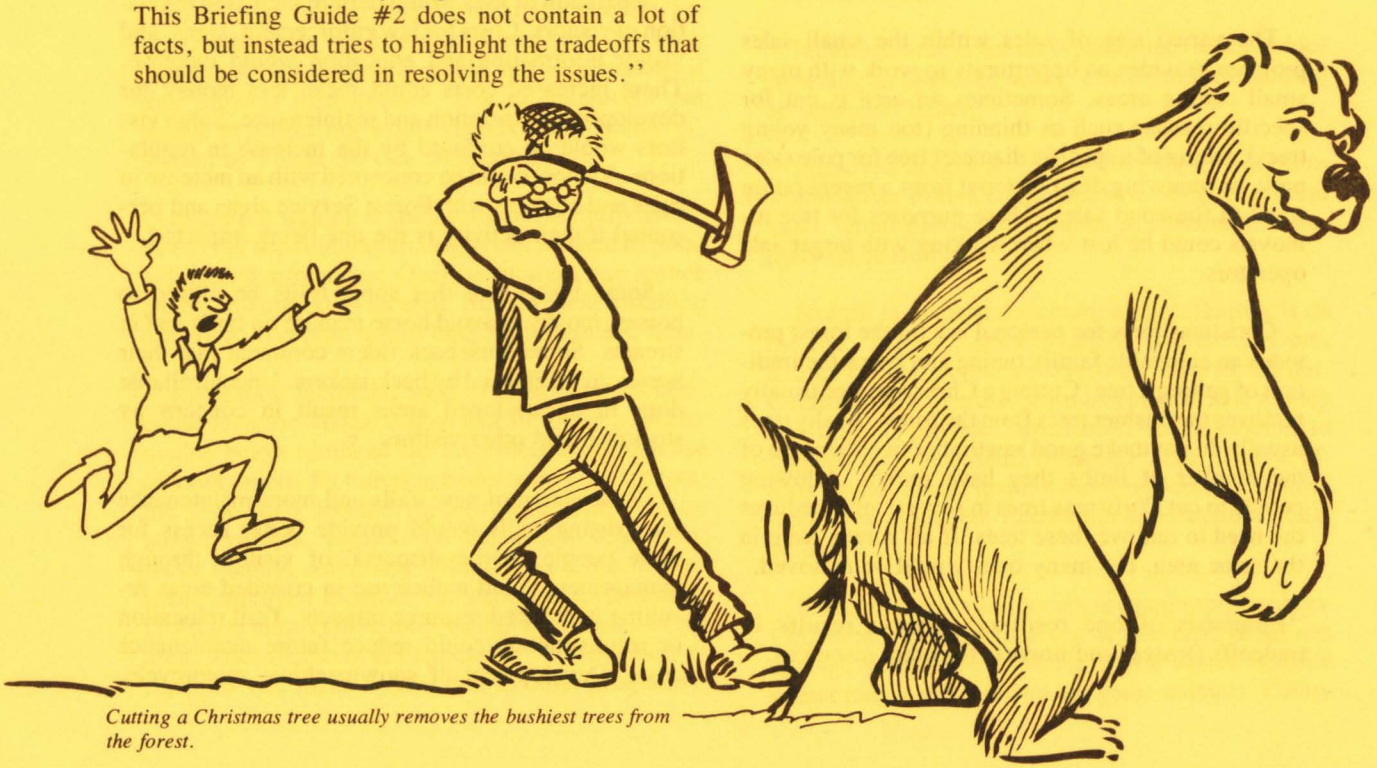
Offering all timber from the Targhee to the small sales program could create several problems.

The first problem is that all the small sales need easy access to established road systems. The small sales program requires monetary deposits for road maintenance, but not for the building of roads. This fact limits the amount of timber available for harvest.

If all timber is sold under this program, the number of contracts to be prepared increases. More contracts increase the workload of those preparing sales, typing contracts, collecting money for sales and administering sales. More personnel could be needed to keep up with the demand for these sales.

When many small sales are offered, coordination with other resources could become difficult, especially with wildlife. Small sales tend to be along already built roads. This scattering of sales places a heavy impact on wildlife habitat.

The small sales program does benefit the local economy by providing an income and livelihood for local loggers and small mills. Small sales also provide a personal use post and pole program, and allow an opportunity to acquire needed fence material and have an enjoyable weekend in the woods.



Cutting a Christmas tree usually removes the bushiest trees from the forest.

If all future timber were put into the large sales program, many small loggers and small mills would go out of business. The competition would be too great for them to compete and survive. If all timber remains in the small sales program, the large mills would also suffer. The large mills would be required to look elsewhere for their timber supply. If they could not find the needed amount of timber to run their mills and still make a profit, they would have to close their doors. When mill workers lose jobs, loggers and truckers for the large mills are out of work. This would create a huge economic impact on many local residents.

The large sales program brings in money to build adequate roads and opens more areas on the forest to more timber sales. Large sales are easier to coordinate with wildlife and are easier to administer, cutting the workload of forest employees.

Large sales are not profitable when the timber is sold in numerous small areas of lands. The small sales program best removes trees in these areas.

As large operators open new areas with roads, small sales fall in behind. Once a major road access is available, the small sale operator has reduced costs. The small sale operator needs to build temporary roads but is not required to pay the cost of a "specified" road. He does contribute money to some road maintenance. The small sales program includes sales of products such as poles, posts, and firewood. Normally, large sale operators do not get involved in these sales.

The varied size of sales within the small sales program provides an opportunity to work with many small cutting areas. Sometimes an area is cut for specific reasons such as thinning (too many young trees), taking of a specific diameter tree for pole sales only, or removing dead material from a regenerating stand (a firewood sale). These purposes for tree removals could be lost when working with larger sale operators.

Christmas trees for personal use on the forest provides an enjoyable family outing and keeps the tradition of getting a tree. Cutting a Christmas tree usually removes the bushier trees from the forest. Bushy trees usually do not make good sawtimber trees because of the number of limbs they have grown. Allowing people to cut Christmas trees in several areas reduces the need to remove these trees. If all cutters were in the same area, too many trees would be removed.

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ISSUE #6 RECREATION: DISPERSED

How Should the Targhee National Forest Provide Dispersed Recreation Opportunities For the Spectrum of Types of Use While Protecting Forest Resources?

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Other issues impacted: wilderness, backcountry, budget, personnel, transportation, ORV, wildlife, hunting, law enforcement, recreation opportunities.

Motorized vehicle recreation, such as snowmobile, 4-wheel drive, motorcycle, or motorboat, often does not mix with nonmotorized recreation such as skiing, hiking or horseback riding, and canoeing or rafting. Both groups often ask for a separation of uses to avoid contact with each other. Separation often can allow these people to better enjoy their activity. Separation can also promote safety in activities.

Separation of uses can mean closure of areas to one or more uses. Some people could lose the opportunity to recreate as they choose in their favorite places. Since most conflicts occur on popular, highly used areas, competition between user groups for their own use of these areas could be intense. Compromises between groups could mean that some visitors would lose some opportunities to enjoy themselves.

Separation of uses would require increased regulation of visitors. Costs for law enforcement, signs, and visitor information and education would increase. These increased costs could mean less money for developed site operation and maintenance. Some visitors would be confused by the increase in regulations. Visitors could be concerned with an increase in rules and contacts with Forest Service signs and personnel if their activity is the one being impacted.

Some hikers ask that some trails be closed to horses, mostly to avoid horse manure on trails and in streams. Some horseback riders comment that their horses are frightened by backpackers. Uncontrollable dogs in undeveloped areas result in concern by stockmen and other visitors.

Construction of new trails and more maintenance for existing trails would provide better access for more people. Better dispersal of visitors through management could reduce use in crowded areas resulting in reduced resource impacts. Trail relocation or reconstruction could reduce future maintenance costs. Development of snowmachine, motorcycle,

Better dispersal of visitors through management could reduce use in crowded areas resulting in reduced resource impacts.

and cross country ski trails would reduce conflicts and serve growing interest groups. Improved trails would invite increased use of backcountry areas for visitors wanting trails. Increased numbers of visitors could result in campsite and water quality being negatively impacted. As visitor numbers increase, the opportunity to find solitude would decrease. Backcountry visitors who like to use their wilderness skills in trailless areas would lose some opportunity. Fishing quality would decline if fishing pressure increases. Some big game poulations might be harvested more efficiently by improved trails, but others might be over used. Key habitats might be negatively impacted. Sensitive wildlife species such as eagles or bighorn sheep might move out of the areas as human use increased. Conflicts with grizzly bears could increase in a few areas. Any new development of trails would have to have an E.A. prepared which should provide for sensitive wildlife.

Trail construction and reconstruction costs are high, and funds are not readily available for such projects. Other programs would suffer reductions if trail projects were funded. Use of volunteers can reduce expenses but would require considerable direction by Forest Service personnel.

Improved signing at trailheads and on trails assists visitors in trip orientation. Signs can be used to point out special attractions. Overuse of signs can reduce the natural appeal of an area. Building and installing trail signs has high costs, both in dollars and time.

Recreation facilities, such as toilets and shelters, could increase visitor enjoyment of an area. Water quality below trailhead can be protected through use of vault toilets. Pit toilets in backcountry are acceptable if properly located. Improved facilities tend to attract visitors. Impacts on the area's vegetation, water quality, soils, and wildlife can result. Sometimes improved facilities can better protect an area. Overcrowding can reduce visitor enjoyment of an area. Trail facilities are expensive. Construction of facilities will mean a reduction in other programs.

The snowmobile grooming and parking lot plowing program provides enjoyment for many snowmobilers. Expansion of this program could provide more recreation opportunity and reduce crowding. Alternatives to closed areas could be provided. All snowmobile grooming is financed by county-held snowmobile registration funds. Some counties do not have adequate funds, interest, or snow conditions to maintain a grooming program. Plowing of parking lots is a county function. Signing and administration, which are financed by the Forest service, are costly.

Alternative means of grooming trails, which might involve Forest Service participation, could increase recreation opportunities. Forest Service participation in grooming programs would be expensive in an era of decreased budgets.

The correct balance of regulation and enforcement protects resources while not restricting people needlessly. Excessive enforcement is expensive and subtracts time that could be spent maintaining trails or facilities. Unjustified restrictions are difficult to enforce and encourage people to question even the necessary restrictions.

If backcountry management is not adequate, fragile backcountry sites may be scarred for many years. Water quality could be threatened. The expense of rehabiliting damaged areas could be great. Increased litter or overly large groups detract from some people's enjoyment of the Forest. More safety problems would occur. Conflicts between users would increase.

Improved access for all types of use could reduce crowding in overused areas. Conflicting uses could be separated better.

Improved access is very costly. Other programs would suffer from a commitment to better roads and trails. Often good access results in concentrated impacts on resources.

Interest in dispersed recreation opportunities is on the rise. Already, some roadside corridors, rivers, and backcountry areas are overused and a lot are not. Control of this overuse commits considerable money and time to provide information and education to visitors, and rehabilitate overused areas. If these efforts are not made, major natural resources may continue to be degraded. Recreation opportunities could be lost.

Some recreation use occurs in inappropriate areas. Undirected snowmachine use of tree plantations can damage young trees. Winter sports use of wildlife winter ranges can threaten big game animals. Camp-

ing on lakeshores can damage fragile vegetation and pollute water. Elimination of inappropriate activities requires a significant effort. The effort is not currently financed to meet public use and demands.

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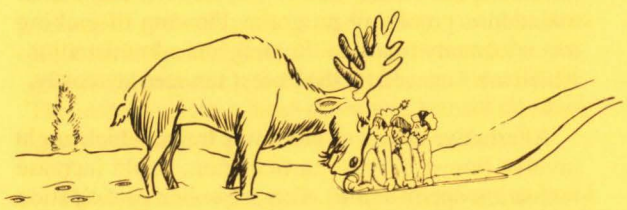

Winter sports use of wildlife winter ranges can threaten big game animals.

ISSUE #7 RECREATION: DEVELOPED

How Much Developed Recreation Should the Targhee National Forest Provide?

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Other issues impacted: budget, personnel, transportation, local economy, soils, water, wildlife, dispersed recreation, special use areas, law enforcement, vandalism.

The demand for campgrounds, group picnic areas, and boating facilities often exceeds the supply on major weekends and holidays. Many of the current sites are overused and in poor repair. Many people would be served if the Forest identified more unimproved campgrounds, built improved campgrounds, enlarged existing campgrounds, and developed boating facilities. Visitor impact on existing facilities would be decreased. Poorly located sites could be closed. All reservation-only sites might be opened to general use. Facilities could be built closer to towns to save people gas money. Improved access could make sites more useable. We could encourage more development in the private section.

Any facility development would be very expensive in both time and money. Vegetation, wildlife, water, and soil resources are usually impacted a great deal in developed campgrounds. Sometimes the reverse occurs in developed areas because special considerations can be made to protect the resources (examples: hard-siting units, roads, and trails).

Development of new areas could impact other resources around these new areas. Timber and forage could not be utilized in campgrounds except as vegetative management plans direct. Many people prefer completely undeveloped sites. Development of facilities could take away some of these undeveloped area opporunities.

Services at existing sites could be increased. Camping seasons could be extended to include fall and winter use. Garbage pickup could be done at campgrounds which have no garbage service now. Money for additional services would come from the existing constrained recreation budget.

Campgrounds do not currently pay their own way. A minimum of services must be offered to charge even a fee. Users could be required to pay the costs of maintenance. This would improve services and site quality. However, increased fees would displease many people. Many people would turn to undeveloped sites, which usually are less able to withstand heavy use. Increased contact by compliance checkers might decrease the campers' enjoyment of the Forest. Compliance checking is funded from the general fund allocation.

Improved maintenance of campgrounds and facilities would better serve campground users. Facilities could be protected better and kept cleaner. Tree planting, landscaping, road surfacing, and facilities remodeling could improve sites. Other programs would have to be reduced, however, since current maintenance funding is at a low level.

Vandalism often increases as sites become more run down. However, improved sites expose a great investment to potential vandalism. They might require increased law enforcement expenses to protect their increased value.

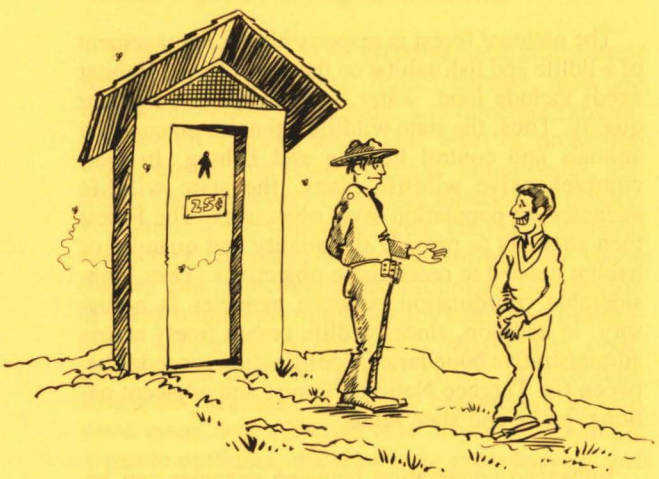
A long list of regulations for developed facilities benefit the general user, however, many of these rules are not well enforced. Greater enforcement effort would mean more cost and more actual restriction. It would also mean more enjoyment of facilities by some campers. Fewer restrictions would allow more freedom to recreate and less agency expense. However, fewer restrictions might create a greater impact on natural features, more conflict between user groups, more damage to facilities, and increased safety problems.

Many people would like to have the opportunity to build summer homes on forest lands. Many summer home owners would benefit from fewer restrictions and lower special use fees. Other people ask for a discontinuance of summer home permits.

Greater restriction or removal of summer homes would keep public lands "public". However, fewer special use fees could be collected. Many forest users would lose their summer homes and a source of their enjoyment. The cost of cabin removal would be great, and some very scenic old buildings might be lost. The development of better guidelines for summer home management could resolve some conflicts, but this process would require considerable effort that might be used in other programs.

Special use permit sites include electronic sites, scout camps, and ski areas. These special uses serve many people locally and nationally on the Targhee National Forest. If the Forest provided more special use permit opportunities, recreators who enjoy developed sites would benefit. Existing sites, such as scout camps, and ski areas, would be less crowded, and, thus, less impacted. Forest visitors would have more selection among commercial enterprises, which might reduce user costs. Additional special use fees could be collected. Commercial permits would also generate tax money to all levels of government. Local economics would benefit from purchases and additional jobs. Additional permits could reduce the profit ratio for commercial, thus eliminating the opportunity.

Increased special use development could eliminate some dispersed use opportunities such as snowmobiling or hunting within permit areas. Special use sites are areas of concentrated use. As such, they usually displace wildlife and impact soils, water quality, visual quality and vegetation. Special use sites remove



Additional special use fees could be collected.

public land from timber and range production. An increase in commercial permits might make it impossible for some existing enterprise to survive economically.

Increased administration of special use sites by the Forest could reduce resource impacts, improve service to public users, and promote safety. Increased administration costs the Forest more and is viewed by some users as harassment. It can raise expenses for permit holders. Decreased administration allows the permit holder more freedom but can invite resource losses, unsafe conditions, and reduced service to users.

"Emphasis of one resource, always results in tradeoffs (losses) and impacts for other resources."

ISSUE #8 WILDLIFE AND FISH

At What Level Should the Targhee Forest Protect or Enhance Wildlife and Fish Habitat Considering Population Management Objectives of State Wildlife Agencies?

"You can't have everything on one piece of land. This Briefing Guide #2 does not contain a lot of facts, but instead tries to highlight the tradeoffs that should be considered in resolving the issues."

Other issues impacted: timber, recreation, grazing, budget, personnel, firewood, local economy, minerals, transportation.

If protection of wildlife and fish habitats took precedence over other resources in all situations, some wildlife species would have more and better places to live. More big game might be available for hunters. Trappers could harvest more furbearing animals. Fishery quality would increase. Wildlife habitat diversity would be protected, which could in turn promote more bird, small animal and non-game species diversity. Recreational opportunity tied to wildlife, such as photography, would be enhanced. Outfitter and guide businesses could improve. State Fish and Game Agencies would more easily meet desired wildlife and fish population objectives. However, protection of off-forest habitats, particularly winter range and adjacent private farm lands, would require more attention in some cases, since these habitats might be the factor that limits numbers.

With a priority on wildlife and fish, less timber would be available for harvest. Cutting would be excluded completely around key ranges such as elk calving areas. More old age timber and snags would be reserved for cavity nesting and raptorial birds. Many of the more productive trees would be left standing for wildlife habitat. As a result timber sales which would be permitted would be less feasible economically. In addition to a reduction in lumber production, some tax dollars, direct purchaser payments, and jobs would be lost.

Timber road access would be reduced. General forest road access would also be curtailed, since many firewood or recreation roads are actually developed by the sale of timber.

If wildlife values were maximized, less forage would be available for domestic livestock. Conflict areas, such as riparian zones and winter ranges, would be closed to cow and sheep use. A smaller portion of the forage would be available for livestock on spring or fall ranges. Water developments, fencing, and other range improvement would be necessary to protect wildlife habitat. Predator control would be reduced or eliminated. Some range access roads would be closed. Overall, fewer livestock products would be available to consumers, while costs would increase for producers. Marginal livestock operations would be eliminated, with an accompanying loss of products and incomes.

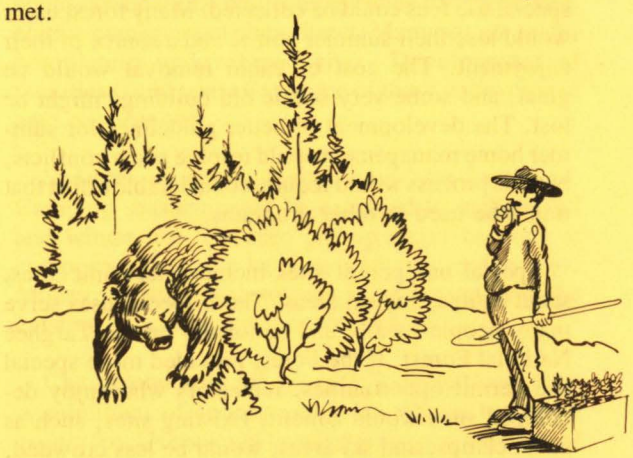
While hunters, trappers, fishermen, and nature lovers would gain much from increased wildlife and fish numbers, some recreationists would not. Winter ranges and other key areas would be closed to recreation. Recreation use would be restricted in many areas where conflict with wildlife might occur. For example, motorcycle trails would not be developed where they might frighten animals. Recreational livestock grazing would be reduced. High use backcountry areas could serve fewer people. Backcountry use within grizzly bear habitat or areas where black bear conflicts occur would be reduced or eliminated. Development of special use permit areas and campgrounds would be restricted. In total, there would be little gain in recreational opportunities despite increased hunting and fishing.

Minerals and petroleum exploration and development would be restricted more severely if wildlife and fish were the Forest's priority. The major concern would be access.

Maximal protection of wildlife and fish would require an increased inventory effort to learn what to protect. Research on individual species would also be needed to learn about impacts and uses of other resources upon them.

A reduction in protection efforts would allow increased timber and forage production. More development for recreation and minerals could occur. Habitat quality and quantity losses would result in decreased wildlife and fish numbers and localized decreases in species diversity.

Wildlife and fish habitat improvement projects can potentially increase the populations of many species. This increase could benefit many recreationists. It could also reduce conflicts with other resource uses, since state agency objectives could more readily be met.



Projects which try to change vegetation supply or quality are sometimes risky...

Habitat improvement is usually expensive and time consuming. Enhancement potential suffers from lack of knowledge about species needs and potential project effects. Research to answer these questions is very costly.

Visual resources are sometimes impacted by projects which appear unnatural, such as improvement structures in streams. Projects which try to change vegetation supply or quality are sometimes risky. For example, a prescribed fire designed to increase sprouting in poor quality brush fields might kill the brush or escape fireline boundaries and burn adjacent areas.

The national forest is responsible for management of wildlife and fish habitat on the forest lands. Habitat needs include food, water, and shelter of sufficient quality. Thus, the state wildlife agencies manage the animals and control hunting and fishing. In their comprehensive wildlife plans, the state wildlife agencies set population level objectives. The Forest then attempts to provide the quality and quantity of habitat needed to reach these objectives. Thus, considerable coordination between agencies is necessary. In addition, since wildlife passes freely across administrative boundaries, coordination is needed between the Targhee National Forest and adjacent national parks and state lands.

Enhanced cooperation between agencies can benefit wildlife and fish. Benefits include better planned habitat management, more liberal hunting and fishing regulations, and better control of illegal activity. Like all efforts, this cooperation costs money and time.

Reduced cooperation between agencies results in a duplication of efforts and lost effectiveness. Wildlife and fish and their habitats could suffer losses.

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ISSUE #9 WILDLIFE: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

How Shall Special Management For Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Be Coordinated With Other Resources?

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Other issues impacted: budget, personnel, range, timber, backcountry, recreation, law enforcement, minerals.

The grizzly bear is fully protected under the 1973 Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Portions of the Island Park and Ashton Ranger Districts near Yellowstone National Park are regarded as essential habitat for the bear. Management of these areas must favor the bear when other resource uses appear to be in conflict with the bear's food and shelter needs. However, other resource uses may take place if conflicts are not anticipated. Other areas of the Forest, where bear use is infrequent, have less restrictive grizzly management criteria.

Maximal protection for grizzlies could eliminate or reduce livestock grazing, timber harvest, road and trail development, recreation, and minerals exploration within a broad area. This level of protection would ensure that fewer conflicts would occur, and might allow recovery of grizzly numbers to historic population levels within this area. The major losses to competing resources would be suffered by sheep owners and backcountry recreationists. Elimination of sheep allotments might destroy some sheep operations, with a loss to the public measured in wool, mutton, and user-fee dollars. Losses in recreation would be measured in loss of opportunity to visit some areas, less effective user dispersal, economic losses to outfitters, decreased big game harvest, and increased enforcement.

Protection at a lesser intensity would require careful control of other resource uses. Sheep herders would not be allowed to graze key seasonal bear ranges nor kill grizzlies which attacked sheep. Some timber products could be harvested outside key cover areas. Recreationists would be taught areas and actions to avoid. Minerals development might take place if road development were carefully controlled. This control of uses would be costly.

While less intense protection could provide more use of resources, the potential for conflicts with the bear's needs could not be entirely avoided. The results of conflict might be livestock losses to bears, injured or killed people, or a loss of bears. If conflicts did occur, the legal constraints of the Endangered Species Act would likely result in more severe restriction of competing uses to better protect bears.

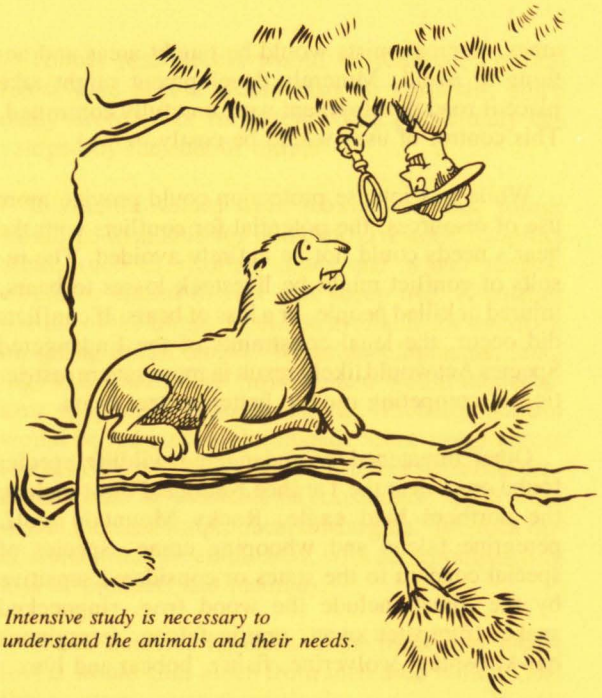
Other threatened or endangered wildlife species found on or near the Targhee National Forest include the northern bald eagle, Rocky Mountain wolf, peregrine falcon and whooping crane. Species of special concern to the states or considered sensitive by the forest include the wood frog, ringnecked snake, trumpeter swan, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, osprey, wolverine, fisher, bobcat and lynx.

As with the grizzly bear, maximal protection of these animals means a loss of timber production, livestock grazing, recreation, road and trail development, and minerals development. Since food and cover needs are not well known for some species, large areas would have to be closed to other uses to totally insure recovery of these species. Enforcement costs would be large.

Protection to the minimal level necessary for compliance with legal constraints requires considerable effort and expense to control resource uses and educate users. Minimal level protection also exposes protected animals to some risk of food, cover or population losses. This risk might be severe for species whose needs are not well known.

Management of threatened and endangered species requires considerable coordination effort since so many agencies are involved. Included agencies are the state wildlife agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and adjacent national parks. Reduced coordination results in less information exchange, duplicated efforts, more overall expense, and most importantly, less effective protection of animals. Intensified coordination costs money. It might also result in domination by one agency to the detriment of the animals or other uses.

Considerable study is necessary to determine habitat needs. Intensive study is necessary to understand the animals and their needs and thus provide the proper level of protection. However, such studies are expensive. Some of the public view these studies as a threat to the animals. Particularly noticeable are tag



Intensive study is necessary to understand the animals and their needs.

and release programs, which occasionally kill the animals being studied.

Low level study could not gain the information necessary for an accurate understanding of habitat needs. As a result, unnecessary restrictions might be imposed upon other uses. The opposite could also be true. Too few restrictions could result in losses in animal numbers, food sources, or cover.

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ISSUE #10 RANGE

How Should the Targhee National Forest Manage the Range Resource?

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Other issues impacted: budget, personnel, fire, wildlife, hunting, water and soils, threatened and endangered species, timber.

Forage use by livestock is limited to levels determined by range managers. Higher levels of forage removal may decrease wildlife forage, allow weeds to take over, or cause erosion. Lower levels of forage use will decrease livestock capacity, thereby reducing red meat production and local income. To check livestock use on all allotments every year would require more manpower or a reduction in other programs. Without more manpower, areas may be overgrazed to various degrees.

Reducing the season of livestock grazing will require ranchers to purchase feed or graze private lands that are essential for growing of hay and crops used for winter feeding. Grazing forest ranges earlier would damage soils and plants and increase wildlife/livestock competition. Grazing later in the fall would increase hunter/livestock conflicts. Ending the grazing season by October 1 would reduce hunter/livestock conflicts but would be difficult for some ranchers. At that time of year crops are being harvested so manpower is short and aftermath grazing of fields may be unavailable.

Early fall storms can cover forage with snow, forcing livestock to concentrate along fences resulting in damage to the forest and soil. These storms may also cause soil to become wet. Grazing by livestock causes compaction damage. Cattle usually use shrubs more in the late fall, increasing competition between deer and cattle for the same foods in some areas.

Any loss in amount of grazing use will reduce local income and red meat in the region. Two hundred families depend directly on the Targhee's grazing, and many businesses are involved in support of these ranch operations. Also, the Targhee Forest receives more than $141,000 annually in grazing fees, which are based on the amount of use (one quarter of the money is returned to the counties) plus portions of the user fee is reinvested on the Forest.

Increased noxious weed control will require more dollars for manpower and materials. Increased control will prevent loss of access (livestock and recreation), particularly in streamside areas. Because livestock and recreationists are the main carriers of seed, streamside areas are very prone to weed invasion. More control of weeds in these areas may increase the change of stream pollution by chemicals. The high use of water areas by people may cause more public awareness and outcry about chemical use. Decreased control of weeds will result in some areas being too dense with weeds for stock and people use in five to ten years.

More water developments would require funds for materials and labor. Livestock use would be shifted to little used areas and away from stream areas. Structural developments enhance wildlife use by preventing stock from trampling the water source. Animal escape ladders allow small animals to escape from

troughs if they fall in. Construction of watering facilities would decrease some visitor's visual enjoyment in the outdoors.

Cattle guards would be more favorable than gates to both stock and vehicles. Drivers would not be inconvenienced by handling the gates. Gates would not be left open and cows not let out. Cattle guards are expensive, about tenfold the cost of gates.

Removal of down timber would increase livestock (and recreation) access. However, many species of wildlife would be impacted by the new access to their habitat. Fuel breaks (areas free of fuel in case of fire) would be formed. If the timber is sound, some value would be gained by removal.

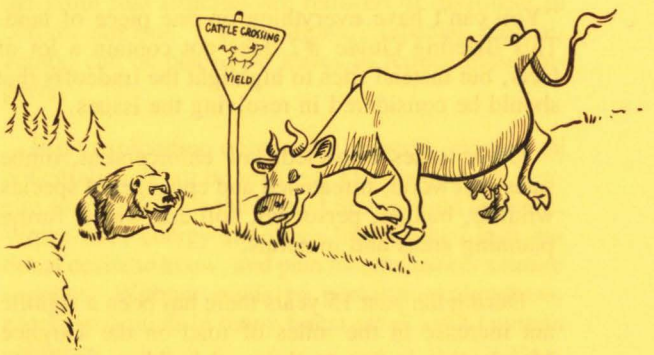
The U.S. Forest Service cooperates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state wildlife agencies and ranchers in regulating predator control. More predator control would result in fewer sheep losses so ranchers would receive more income to pass on to community economics. Decreased predator numbers would encourage sheep grazing of timbered areas, thereby, relieving pressures on open grasslands. Decreased predator numbers would imbalance prey (rabbit, bird, squirrel, etc.) numbers and would reduce hunter/visitor experiences. More predator control requires more money and manpower. Less predator control would cost less while dollar losses to ranchers and local economies would rise. Increased predator numbers might reduce other marginal wildlife populations. Because many sheep ranchers operate near the profit line, increased sheep losses may force them under the line and out of business.

Grizzly bear/sheep conflicts merit special consideration because these bears are on the U.S. Threatened Species list. If sheep allotments are closed in bear areas, ranchers must relocate grazing operations. Overall meat production, Forest income and local income could be decreased if alternate locations were not found. If bears are removed from conflict areas, the species is further endangered by having even less area in which to live. Emphasis on grizzly survival also could mean a loss of some recreation experience. Removal of bears would allow other resources to be emphasized. Coexistence of grizzlies and sheep poses some unique problems. Sheep could be lost to predators and sometimes both herders and grizzlies could be killed. Some important areas could be closed to grazing to reduce conflict. Local rancher and Forest incomes would not be changed substantially from present levels. Grizzly numbers would remain intact and relatively undisturbed.

Harvesting timber may increase forage for livestock. Grazing units and boundaries may be changed when timber stands are removed. Tree plantations may provide temporary grazing but may also be hurt by the livestock grazing or stepping on the young trees. Roads for logging will increase ways to get the stock into areas, easier cowboy access to check on the herd, and easy access to make range improvements (such as building fences). More roads also will provide opportunities for livestock harassment and rustling. Livestock grazing would remove grasses creating a firebreak.

Livestock use of stream areas is mostly on fenced-in cattle range. Grazing may reduce wildlife habitat or cause stream silting by breaking down stream banks. Restricted use of stream areas may reduce cattle range because of water shortage across the range. Reduction in range could lower incomes.

Livestock grazing can impact wildlife habitat in varying degrees. Limiting stock use of key wildlife habitat would protect wildlife but might cause a reduction in livestock numbers and consequently incomes. Limiting stock use would require the expense of fencing in some cases. Grazing may take away wildlife habitat, especially winter range, by reducing grasses and shrubs available for browsing. Most key wildlife habitat is associated with low elevation or stream areas. These areas are also very important to cattle. Wildlife is often forced away from areas grazed by livestock. Elk are intolerant to intensive sheep and cattle grazing in the same areas.



Livestock grazing can impact wildlife habitat in varying degrees.

Recreation/livestock conflicts would increase if livestock numbers were increased. Many recreationists prefer the absence of livestock during their backcountry visits. Recreationists may harass livestock, especially if dogs or motorcycles are present. Hunters sometimes claim livestock scare game and infrequently shoot stock, accidently and intentionally. Because stock, game and recreationists fre-

quent water areas, opportunities for conflict are ever present. In some areas, livestock lower the quality of drinking water.

National and local concern abound over the decline in the sheep industry. Primary reasons for the decline are predator losses and herder neglect. Predator/sheep relations have been discussed. If sheep losses are not lowered, the sheep industry will probably continue its decline. This will increase prices and dependence on the remnant sheep industry and other animal industries. As ranchers leave the sheep industry, pressure will increase to convert vacant allotments to cattle range. Cattle would damage much of the former sheep range because it is mainly on steep hillsides and along narrow streams.

Communication improvements would produce better working relationships and appreciation of problems between stockmen and managers. This would require more visiting by managers, inviting some criticism by publics. Better communications might increase compliance with plans and rules.

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ISSUE #11 TRANSPORTATION

How Should the Targhee National Forest Resolve the Physical, Economic and Resource Impact of Road Construction, Use and Closures?

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Other issues impacted: law enforcement, timber sales, firewood, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, budget, personnel, soil and water, further planning areas and minerals.

During the past 15 years there has been a significant increase in the miles of road on the Targhee. Mainly this is due to the road building needed to harvest dead and dying lodgepole pine. Studies by the Idaho Fish and Game Department and Forest wildlife biologists have shown that this road building has directly impacted wildlife by destroying or changing the habitat. More access has also affected wildlife population due to increased hunting pressure and other human activities. The Targhee Forest Travel Plan was implemented partially in response to these concerns for wildlife. Road closures have also occurred where needed to assure public safety and to protect soil and water resources.

Some forest users want unrestricted access throughout the National Forest. Others want road closures to protect wildlife and control soil erosion. If all the roads remain open there will be reduced wildlife populations, greater potential for poaching, increased soil erosion and stream sedimentation, and higher enforcement and road maintenance costs. Soils erode from road surfaces because of poor drainage, steep road grades, and/or lack of gravel or asphalt surfacing. These roads adequately serve resource management needs in their present condition if road use is restricted to protect soil, water and wildlife. However, the public loses the benefit of vehicle access for hunting, fishing, firewood gathering, and other recreation activities.

Most of the new roads on the Forest were built to harvest timber; most future additional roads would also be built for the same reason. Some forests use balloons or helicopters to haul timber, but this harvest method will not likely be used on the Targhee. It is not economical to haul lodgepole pine with balloons or helicopters.

The number of roads needed for timber harvest depends on the cost to build a road and the timber operator's cost to skid the timber to the road. A road is needed when skidding costs exceed road building costs. "Temporary" roads are sometimes allowed for timber harvest. Temporary roads are permitted only when the need for the roads ends when the timber sale contract ends. These roads are obliterated and the land returned to productivity. In the past many temporary roads were built to harvest the timber. Some were never obliterated as required. Bottoms of draws and ridgetops were often chosen for road locations. Roads in these locations cannot be properly drained, and soil erosion commonly occurs. These roads can be justified today because access needs do not end with completion of timber harvest. Post sale activities such as planting, gopher control, thinning, and firewood cutting require roads for access.

Resource management needs determine the amount and kind of road to be built. Most timber access roads are single lanes, without gravel or asphalt surfacing. Roads jointly used for timber hauling and public access require additional width and gravel or asphalt surfacing to safely accommodate the traffic. The Forest Service finances these road improvements that serve both the commercial user of forest resources and the public.

The Forest's future roading needs depend on how the resources will be managed. Few resources can be effectively managed without road access. Some, such as timber and minerals, rely heavily on the availabil-

ity of roads; others, such as grazing and dispersed recreation use, are much less dependent. If future

It is easy to get stuck on many dirt logging roads.

forest management shifts from activities requiring roads, such as timber harvest, few additional roads would be needed. The tradeoffs of such an action would be adverse affects on both the adjoining communities and local dependent industries, and potential resource values would be lost. Adverse impacts on wildlife and fish, soil, water, and visuals would not, however, occur.

Like other issues the transportation issue is limited by manpower, time and money. The abundance of dead wood requires fast sales and removals. Without roads, sales cannot proceed. Coordination with other agencies, especially with fish resources, takes time and planning.

As with enforcement problems in other issues, limited money, training, time and personnel affect the degree of enforcement. If enforcement does not occur, resources could be (in some cases) irreparably destroyed. If too much enforcement occurs, time and attention in administering other resources is greatly reduced. Publics would be faced with extensive signing and policing by Forest Service officials. Training is expensive and time consuming.

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ISSUE #12 MINERALS

How Can the Targhee National Forest Identify, Manage and Mitigate the Impacts of Exploration and Development of Minerals and Nonrenewable Resources?

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Other issues impacted: wilderness, further planning areas, national energy needs, wildlife, soils, water, air pollution, safety, economics, law enforcement, social resources.

When industry conducts exploration or enters the forest to develop a mineral resource, roads for heavy equipment are required.

The same tradeoffs described in the transportation issue occur with this issue because of the need for roads. Many areas with high expectations of oil and gas lie in the "overthrust belt". Much of this belt on the Targhee lies in some very steep roadless areas, some with high wilderness values. Roads are most difficult to build in such areas because of high soil erosion, land slides, visual scars, and short seasons. Wildlife, soils, and water quality impacts could occur from both exploration and development efforts. An added resource concern during energy development can be air pollution from possible release of noxious hydrogen sulfide gas. Water pollution can occur to the point that fisheries are reduced or disappear in certain streams. "Stipulations" (special requirements) can be placed on leases to reduce these impacts.

If no exploration occurs, the mineral, gas and oil potentials will not be realized. Dependence on mineral sources outside the United States could increase. Worry over energy shortages has resulted in a national desire to know, and plan for, the nation's future supplies. Without roads to perform explorations, energy potentials in many forest areas would remain unknown.

Three agencies are involved in leasing on national forest lands. The Forest Service recommends where the leasing can occur and the stipulations necessary to protect the surface resources. BLM issues the leases, usually accepting the Forest Service's recommendations. The United States Geological Survey administers the leases.

Enforcement of stipulations is difficult because of the involvement of several agencies and limited

money and personnel. Few forests have trained geologists and even fewer have experts on oil, gas and other minerals. Lack of knowledge of the areas under the surface makes the environmental impacts difficult to foresee or to return to their original state if they are disturbed. Many activities from development of mineral resources could result in permanent, irretrievable effects on other resources.

Unmanaged development of mineral resourses could result in permanent, irretrievable effects on other resources.

Oil and gas development in these roadless areas could have a large social impact, particularly on small towns and small unpopulated areas. Along with an economic boost, population growth and additional jobs to the county comes an increase in need for support facilities such as housing, sewage, police protection and shopping centers.

Without the opportunity to continue economic oil and gas development and growth, some towns could stagnate and die out completely.

Accurate exploratory technology is not available to guarantee that minerals are beneath the surface. Sometimes the loss of surface resources could be very great while no minerals are found in return.

The major concerns (besides building roads in managing exploration and development of minerals with nonrenewable resources) are where such activities should take place, how many should be encouraged, and how many environmental losses might be necessary to be foregone to fulfill national energy needs for the future.

If too many regulations and restrictions are placed on exploration and development during the leasing process, the leasee would either be unable to explore and/or develop, or would find it uneconomical to do so.

If no stipulations were placed upon exploration and development during the leasing process, many resources could be damaged irretrievably. In a situation where some resources are permanently destroyed, the land's functional ability declines as a result.

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ISSUE #13 FIRE MANAGEMENT

How Much Protection From Wildfire and How Much Use of Prescribed Fire Is Necessary to Meet Resource Management Objectives?

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Other issues impacted: soil and water, firewood, transportation, range, public information, wildlife, manpower, budget, insects and disease.

The history of fire is important to the fire management issue. When forests were first established, the Forest Service saw fire as "bad" and tried to eliminate it as fast as it occurred.

This old policy ignored the normal place of fire in nature. Many plants require the intense heat of fire to help new seeds open and grow. "Succession" occurs in every plant ecosystem. After fire, certain plants grow well in ash fed soils. As ash foods are used up by these plants, other plants take over that survive with less potassium and more salts. Eventually, a "climax" species grows in an area. This plant dominates other plants until a fire starts the cycle again. By keeping out fire, many plant species are unable to regenerate and climax species take over vast regions of land. Such an occurrence can result in permanent soil and weather changes. Types of plants available to eat also directly affect the diversity and numbers of wildlife able to live in an area.

There are two types of fires: wildfire, started by lightning; and man-caused fires, begun accidentally or on purpose by humans and their machines.

If all wildfires are put out, the cost is high (especially in areas where the fire is unlikely to spread such as at high altitudes) and the damage is small. In fact, the fire "damage" is temporary until new plants start the cycle.

If all wildfires were allowed to burn without control, the entire forest, or at least large sections, could be lost quickly. Safety of persons in the Forest, recreation buildings, developments on private lands and private or leased homes could be lost if fires were allowed to get out of control.

A "controlled" (or "prescribed") fire may or may not be allowed to burn, depending on the weather conditions, type of fuel it's burning in (big timber

There are two types of fires: wildfire, started by lightening; and man-caused fires...

trees or sage brush), slope, winds and aspect, and whether buildings and people are nearby. How much a fire should be allowed to burn under these conditions is determined ("prescribed") ahead of time.

Knowledge about fires and what they will do under certain conditions is still growing. Spring and fall usually provide the best conditions for most prescribed burns on the Targhee. Prescribed burns on the Targhee are usually done to produce new forage such as grasses for cattle and wildlife on lands where sagebrush dominates. Sagebrush is not a good food for wildlife or cattle and sheep.

Because of the large amount of dead timber killed by the pine bark beetle, the Targhee is a giant matchbox. Clearcut timber sales and clearcut areas for firewood create "fire lines" (also called "fuel breaks") or highways through the timber so that a fire can be stopped at the line. Without dry fuel, fire can't burn.

If slash is not piled (piling tree limbs and trees the wrong size for mills), debris would be left on the ground to fuel a large, unexpected fire.

If these piles remain scattered, fire danger is still high. Fire needs oxygen, air and fuel to burn. Dead lodgepole is an excellent fuel, standing or lying on the ground. Either the piles can be burned (to remove fuel for a big fire and to make the area look better), or the piles may be sold or given away to firewood gatherers.

If roads that are closed to protect wildlife are left open for firefighters, they can serve as both a fireline and a road to get them closer to the fire.

Fire is most harmful when it damages watersheds. By burning up all plants (their roots hold in the soil) a heavy rain can easily cause mudslides, mudflows, or burned debris to be washed into the streams, resulting in muddy streams. This results in the loss of good top soil, loss of suitable drinking water, and a build up of soil in irrigation canals.

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ISSUE #14 SOILS AND WATER

What Protection Should the Targhee National Forest Provide for Soil and Water Resources With Increasing Impacts From Other Resource Utilization?

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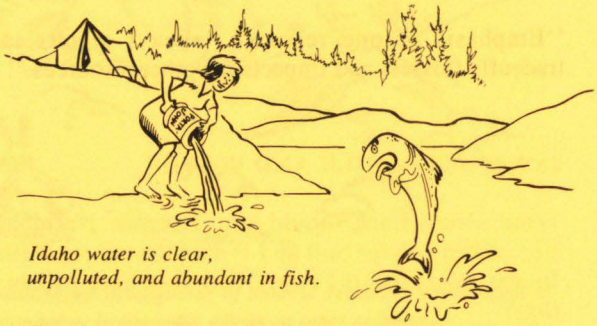
Other issues impacted: firewood, transportation, timber, fisheries, wildlife, range, recreation, minerals, fire.

Water is necessary for fisheries, wildlife, timber and other vegetation, recreation, and grazing on the forest. High quality water is also important to off-forest uses such as irrigation and domestic water supplies. The Targhee has filed water rights with the states of Idaho and Wyoming for stockwater use on allotments and for recreation users in campgrounds.

Without water naturally flowing from snow packs and springs much of the National Forest lands could dry up and change.

If water quality is reduced to lower levels, trout and other species requiring cold, high quality water for survival could disappear. Livestock, miners, and recreationists also need to use the forest's water. These activities can cause reduced water quality and soil productivity.

Riparian areas (streams, lakes, and adjacent land which has a high water table) provide very important fish and wildlife habitat for a large number of species. Riparian areas are unique, fragile systems which have high esthetic values. They are also prime sites for other resources and activities such as grazing, road construction, and recreation sites. These activities can harm the riparian area; but prohibiting them near all riparian areas could eliminate many opportunities.



Idaho water is clear, unpolluted, and abundant in fish.

Roads cause the major impact on soil and water, especially in steep or fragile areas (such as riparian). Roads can cause landslides, erosion, irreparable scars, and sediment. To remove or explore for minerals, oil and gas, and timber resources (including firewood), it is necessary to build roads, often into steep and/or fragile areas. By gaining some other resources, soils and water can be adversely impacted.

If new growth does not occur immediately on logged areas, loss of valuable soil could occur. Natural reseeding is often difficult and can be very slow. Artificial seeding and planting is faster and more certain, but it is much more expensive.

An uncontrolled fire can cause soil and water losses by destroying necessary vegetation. However, if fires can be controlled or prescribed over the forest, the risk of an uncontrolled fire can be lessened.

Watershed is a very important resource to protect. Many towns and cities get their drinking water from the streams and lakes on the Targhee. Most of the water from the Targhee is used for irrigating croplands. If these water sources were reduced in quality, the towns, would need to increase their water treatment for drinking, and irrigators would have to clean the soil out of their canals.

"Emphasis of one resource, always results in tradeoffs (losses) and impacts for other resources."

ISSUE #15 CULTURAL RESOURCES

How Should Cultural Resources and Research Natural Areas be Coordinated in Management of the Other Unique Features?

"You can't have everything on one piece of land. This Briefing Guide #2 does not contain a lot of facts, but instead tries to highlight the tradeoffs that should be considered in resolving the issues."

Other issues impacted: budget, personnel, timber, transportation, minerals.

A major problem in resolving the cultural resource issue is identification of where cultural resources are on the Targhee. The Forest Service is trying to salvage as much remaining good wood as possible before its market value is lost. Roads and sale areas are planned and marked quickly to keep up with the sales. One Forest Service person, hired to study cultural resources, must check these areas to determine if any cultural resources exist in the areas of impact by these sales and roads. for best analysis, this check is generally done on foot or with occasional test pits.

If cultural resources are found, roads may be rerouted, sale boundaries may be reduced or altered or the cultural resource may be protected and recorded on data sheets. Occasionally other measures must be taken to protect significant cultural resources.

Some sites may qualify for extensive study through excavation. Artifacts are usually preserved. Occasionally, for protection and preservation, an area may be selected as an historic site.

Once a site is disturbed, the information value of the resource is reduced. Sometimes a site could be disturbed without the knowledge that it exists because there were not enough knowledgeable persons or time to adequately determine if a resource was in an area.

Tradeoffs occur with timber and the building of roads to get the timber. If the timber and transportation personnel waited for all archaeological inventory data, the Forest could not meet its timber targets. Timber sales could not harvest remaining green wood in a timely manner before the beetle kills it.

Another consideration in cultural resources is the protection of the site. Cultural resource legislation establishes by law how the Forest Service must preserve cultural resources and what may or may not be considered historical.

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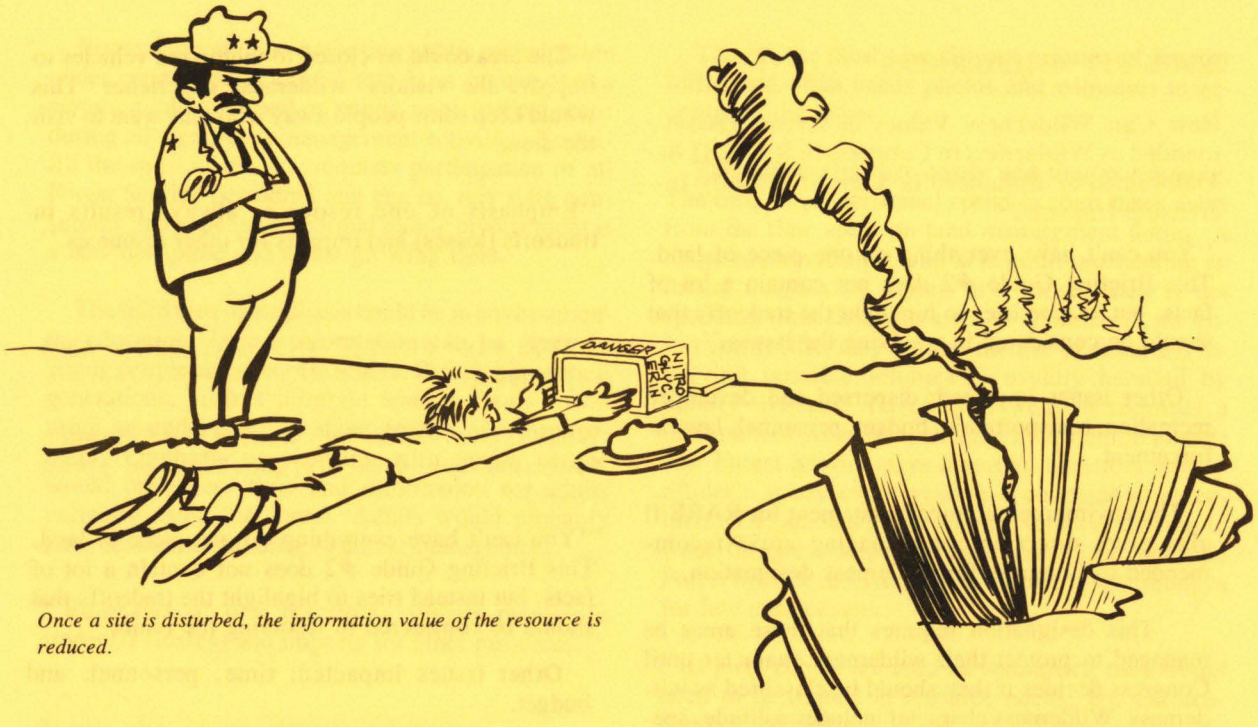

Once a site is disturbed, the information value of the resource is reduced.

ISSUE #16 FURTHER PLANNING AREAS

How Will Rare II Further Planning Areas Be Managed?

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Other issues impacted: transportation, dispersed and developed recreation, budget, minerals, personnel.

The environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) gives direction for managing "further planning areas". A further planning area is an area that has high wilderness qualities but also has high mineral potential. Until the mineral potential is determined, the area can be recommended for neither wilderness nor nonwilderness classification. The EIS direction is to manage further planning areas in order to maintain their wilderness characteristics until a final decision is made on whether they should be wilderness or nonwilderness. This generally means no timber harvest, no roads, and no permanent buildings. The RARE II EIS does allow for oil and gas exploration in those areas with high potential for oil and gas. The exploration will tell the Forest Service more about the oil and gas resource before they recommend to Congress whether the area should be wilderness or nonwilderness.

If leases for oil and gas were issued, oil companies would probably want to drill exploratory wells. If wells were drilled, roads to move equipment to the site would need to be built and drill sites would need to be cleared. If oil or gas is not discovered, the company would be required to return the area as near as possible to its natural condition. However, it would probably not be possible to cover roads and drill sites to a completely natural condition in many areas.

If leases are not issued or oil companies do not have a chance to drill in further planning areas, the Forest Service will not learn about oil and gas potential of further planning areas. The recommendation to Congress would be delayed and the status of further planning areas would not be decided for many years.

If snowmobiles, trail bikes, and 4-wheel drive vehicles were kept out of further planning areas, the wilderness experience would improve for some visitors to the areas. The closure would keep other people from riding vehicles into areas they like to visit.

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ISSUE #17 WILDERNESS

How Can Wilderness Values of Areas Recommended as Wilderness to Congress in RARE II Be Maintained or Enhanced in View of Steadily Increasing Impacts?

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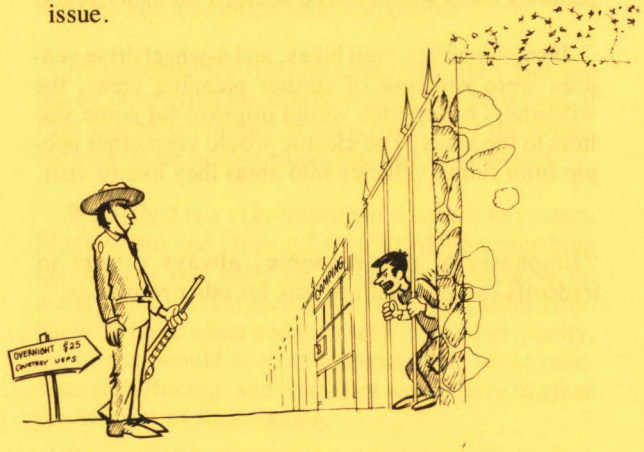
Other issues impacted: dispersed and developed recreation, transportation, budget, personnel, law enforcement.

The environmental impact statement for RARE II also gives direction for managing areas recommended to Congress for wilderness designation.

This designation requires that these areas be managed to protect their wilderness character until Congress decides if they should be classified as wilderness. Wilderness character includes solitude, special environments, beauty, challenging experiences, and a natural ecosystem.

As wilderness areas become scarcer, more people crowd into them. As use of the areas increase, the popular camping areas become overused, vegetation is trampled, dead trees are used for firewood and parts of the area loses its natural appearance. These problems could be prevented by requiring people to camp in certain areas, or by limiting the number of people who go into the area. This would take away some of the freedom people have to camp where they like. Not all people who want to visit an area would have the opportunity. It would also cost additional money to hire people to issue permits and to make sure people camp in the right area. Many of the problems in this issue are also discussed in the dispersed recreation issue.



Problems could be prevented by requiring people to camp in certain areas.

The area could be closed to motorized vehicles to improve the visitors' wilderness experience. This would keep some people away who may want to visit the area.

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ISSUE #18 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

What Type of Public Information and Education Programs Should the Targhee National Forest Provide?

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Other issues impacted: time, personnel, and budget.

In the current program for public information and education, the main emphasis is on public involvement in planning activities. Media contacts and news releases, historical and photographic files and community relations are other parts of the program. Since only one person on the Targhee is hired to do public information and education, only one area can be emphasized. The solution with this issue will depend on what part of public involvement the public prefers to emphasize.

If media stories are emphasized, more persons will be reached about Targhee activities and constraints. The media can carry news and information quickly. The number of media features would depend on media receptibility and their acceptance of Forest Service needs as well as the amount of time and space they can devote to stories. Media stories reach a wide audience, do not guarantee a high degree of retention, and are highly dependent on accurate interpretation from the news people. Emphasizing media coverage could bring better understanding of management of Targhee lands.

If planning activities are emphasized, rapport with the media and community would be secondary. Plans made today on the forest will determine what the forest will be like for the next ten years. Because of this, emphasis on public participation in planning activities could ensure that a good representation of the publics are helping shape the future of their forest.

Recent laws require increasing public participation under certain guidelines. These laws require that a certain minimum level of public participation occur during all significant management activities. To fulfill the spirit of the law requires participation of all Forest Service personnel and can be very time consuming and expensive. Formal public involvement is a new discipline and a fast growing field.

The third area of emphasis could be in environmental education. Forest information can be given to young people and school teachers. By reaching future generations, such a program teaches future forest users an understanding about forests and management. Emphasis on working with young people would mean less time and information for adults currently using the forest. Adults would probably have less understanding of forest management.

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ISSUE #19 LAW ENFORCEMENT

What Law Enforcement Activities Should Be Emphasized by the Targhee National Forest?

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Other issues impacted: almost all of the other 19 issues are affected by law enforcement, particularly transportation.

If more enforcement of rules and activities occurs, fewer personnel would be available to administer timber sales, range, wildlife and water projects. Personnel chosen to enforce rules need to have extensive training in order to be legal and effective in law enforcement.

Most persons working for the Forest Service have extensive training management in resources management such as timber, range or wildlife. Many of them do not have the inclination, time or training to devote to law enforcement.

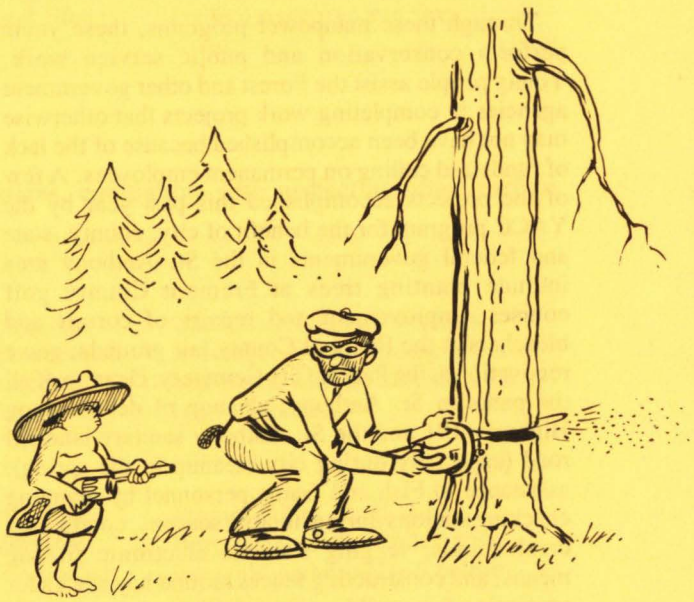
If too little law enforcement occurs, theft, vandalism and other unlawful acts would grow.

Sometimes when a person commits a misdemeanor, and always when a felony is committed, the Forest Service officer must appear in court and testify.

The officer must also fill out a series of lengthy forms and often needs photos and witnesses to accompany the ticket.

This process is very costly and time consuming. The time forest personnel spend in court takes away from the time spent on land management duties. A range conservationist who is in court prosecuting an illegal trespass by a jeep in a closed area is not spending time checking a sheep allotment. Law enforcement (that may require the use of firearms) involving possible felonies is usually handled by county officers. To carry a weapon requires a minimum of six months training in law enforcement. The Forest Service pays a certain sum to a county officer's salary every year in a cooperative agreement. The amount of the money varies according to what Congress allocates each year. Last year the Forest Service received a reduction in county moneys for law enforcement.

If local people are used as volunteers, they would need to be trained in resource needs, law enforcement, legal paperwork and use of firearms. Persons would have to be selected carefully so that the group does not become vigilante. Gas and uniform reimbursements would not be funded by Congress. The program would be costly for the volunteers. Although the Forest would benefit from a volunteer force, by having more people available to enforce laws, the legalities of enforcement could be questioned.



Although the forest would benefit by having more people available to enforce laws from a volunteer force, the legalities of enforcement could be questioned in a court of law.

If the Forest Service increases law enforcement, the image of the Forest Service could change from 'protectors of the land' to 'police officers'.

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ISSUES #20 HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

To What Extent Should the Targhee National Forest Use Human Resource Programs to Accomplish Its Mission?

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Other issues impacted: budget, personnel, community relations, local economy.

If the Targhee continues to use and expand the human resource programs such as Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC), Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), it can provide employment and other benefits to youths and older American citizens, most who are local and who would not otherwise be employed.

Through these manpower programs, these youth perform conservation and public service work. Young people assist the Forest and other government agencies in completing work projects that otherwise may not have been accomplished because of the lack of funds and ceiling on permanent employees. A few of the projects accomplished this past year by the YACC program for the benefit of city, county, state and federal governments in the St. Anthony area include planting trees at Fremont County golf courses; improvement and repairs of corrals and bleachers at the Fremont County fair grounds; grave renovation at the Parker City Cemetery; cleanup of all the parks in St. Anthony; cleanup of debris along Highway 191 and the St. Anthony sanitary land fill road (especially during city cleanup in the spring); assistance to Fish and Game personnel by manning checking stations during hunting seasons, conducting creel counts, tagging fish via electronic fishing means, and constructing fences around hay stacks for protection from wild game; constructed dog pounds for the cities of St. Anthony and Sugar City; constructed an ice skating pond for St. Anthony; cleaned up after a number of local parades; constructed fences; and completed firewood projects at Harriman State Park.

Continuing and expanding some of these programs can cause economic and social impacts by the enrollees and staff on the community's resources where the camp is located. Impacts on the communities include social, religious, and recreational opportunities for enrollees and staff, and law enforcement.

If good rapport and sustained community relations are not maintained, problems can occur with local businesses, civic, school, and religious groups.

If positive working relationships are not maintained with local law enforcement agencies, serious problems can occur in the community and at the camp.

If use of human resource programs were discontinued by the Forest a lot of conservation and public service work would go undone. Work being accomplished through these programs would probably not be done because of the lack of manpower and funds at city, county, state, and federal levels.

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FOREST PLANNING PUBLIC ISSUE RANGES

Planing Issue No. 1, Firewood

How should the Targhee National Forest manage the firewood resource?

A. **Charge vs Free Wood**		
All Firewood Free.	Limit free use of firewood to thinning, logging and road clearing residues.	No free use firewood.
B. **Availability - Utilization**		
Construct temporary roads for firewood access. Open entire forest for firewood removal except ongoing timber sales. Degree of firewood utilization not a consideration.	Retain temporary roads in timber sales for firewood access. Provide sufficient firewood areas to disperse use. Locate firewood areas nearer to population centers.	No construction or retention of temporary roads for firewood access. Limit number of firewood areas to achieve specific management objectives. Emphasis on degree of firewood utilization.
C. **Enforcement**		
Infrequent, random compliance checks.	Daily compliance checks.	Full-time administration of the firewood program.
D. **Commercial Firewood Sales**		
Low priority for commercial firewood sales: high priority for free use firewood.	Commercial firewood sales not to exceed 50% of total firewood demand.	Commercial firewood sales favored over free use firewood.

Planning Issue No. 2, Timber

What are the appropriate timber management objectives, compatible with protecting other surface resources?

A. **Clearcutting and Other Harvest Methods**		
Implement uneven age timber management using selection and group selection silvicultural systems.	Use all silvicultural systems to achieve timber management objectives while protecting other surface resources.	Use all silvicultural systems to achieve timber management objectives with an emphasis on large clearcuts.
B. **Clean-up of Cutting Areas**		
No slash piling or burning.	Prompt piling of most slash. Provide the opportunity for firewood gathering from slash piles.	Prompt piling of all slash. Burn residual slash piles after firewood gathering and before reforestation.
C. **Reforestation**		
Limit reforestation to natural regeneration.	Supplement natural regeneration with tree planting.	Plant all areas with emphasis on creating species diversity.

D. **Control of Undesirable Plants**		
No control of undesirable plants.	Control undesirable plants on roads and landings.	Control undesirable plants on all disturbed areas.

Planning Issue No. 3, Timber

What effect will a changing resource base have on timber management objectives and economic needs?

A. **Salvage Sales - Insect Kill Timber**		
Provide for low level of harvest during remaining salvage period.	Provide for moderate harvest during remaining salvage period.	Provide for maximum harvest during remaining salvage period.
B. **Sustained Yield**		
Harvest timber below long-term sustained yield capacity.	Harvest timber at long-term sustained yield capacity.	Harvest timber above long-term sustained yield capacity (departure).
C. **Large Operations**		
Offer majority of volume to small sales operations.	Provide equitable balance of sale offerings to large and small operations.	Offer majority of volume to large operations.

Planning Issue No. 4, Insect and Disease Management

How should the Targhee National Forest manage present and future disease and insect problems?

Low intensity insect and disease management - "let nature take its course"	Emphasis on timber salvage program to manage present and future disease and insect problems.	Emphasis on timber salvage program, insecticides, tree genetics, tree species diversification and shorter rotation of logdepole pine to manage present and future disease and insect problems.

Planning Issue No. 5, Timber

At what level should the Targhee National Forest provide small sales for business and personal needs?

Offer majority of timber volume to small operators and individuals.	Equitable balance of sale offerings between large and small operators and individuals.	Offer the majority of timber volume as large sales.

Planning Issue No. 6, Recreation

How should the Targhee National Forest provide dispersed recreation opportunities for the spectrum of types of uses while protecting forest resources?

A. **Conflicting Uses**		
Use conflicts resolved when needed for resource protection.	Low profile program that responds to resolution of user conflicts and resource protection when they become apparent.	High profile dispersed recreation management program that resolves potential use conflicts before they develop with emphasis on enforcement education and resource protection.
B. **Construction and Maintenance of Facilities and Trails**		
"Back to nature"; no new developments, minimal maintenance necessary only for resource protection.	Program focus on heavy use areas with priority on new facilities and higher standard trails in these areas.	Full program of new/upgraded facilities and improvement of the trail system throughout the forest with emphasis on user comfort and convenience.
C. **Enforcement of Rules and Regulations**		
Low profile enforcement program focusing on control of chronic violations of rules and regulations.	Enforcement program emphasis directed toward most popular recreation uses.	Full-time enforcement program with emphasis on education to insure compliance with laws and regulations by all types of users.
D. **Access**		
No development of new or improvement of existing access. User comfort or convenience not a consideration.	Emphasize access development and maintenance in high use areas. User comfort and convenience secondary in importance.	Access development and maintenance based on consideration for user comfort and convenience throughout the forest.
E. **Protection of Forest Resources**		
Initiate controls in areas where resource damage is occurring.	Maintain Forest resource values by implementing controls on user activities.	Provide for enhancement of Forest resource values by regulating amount and type of use.

Planning Issue No. 7, Recreation

How much developed recreation should the Targhee National Forest provide?

A. **Facilities - Public**		
No expansion of recreation facilities.	Limit expansion of recreation facilities to existing sites.	Expand and develop recreation facilities where needed to satisfy demand.
B. **Protection and Maintenance**		
Protection and maintenance sufficient to assure public safety.	Protection and maintenance provided for both public safety and convenience. Site deterioration minimal and corrected at regular intervals.	Emphasis on assuring public safety and convenience: Maintenance scheduled to perpetuate facility as built.

C. **Enforcement of Rules and Regulations**		
Enforcement limited to routine contacts by compliance checkers.	Daily compliance checks and periodic patrols.	Full-time patrol.
D. **Private Facilities/Special Uses**		
Phase out all individual and non-conforming commercial special use permits.	Continue current level of individual and commercial special use permits except where resource impacts can not be corrected or Forest need for land exists.	Encourage expansion of commercial special use permits that serve public need. Maintain number of individual special use permits.

Planning Issue No. 8, Wildlife and Fisheries

At what level should the Targhee National Forest protect or enhance wildlife and fish habitat considering population management objectives of state wildlife management agencies?

A. **Protect Habitat**		
Protect habitat necessary to maintain present populations.	Protect habitat to support population growth to the limit of available habitat.	Provide habitat necessary to establish historic population levels.
B. **Enhance Habitat**		
No habitat enhancement; wildlife population decline occurs.	Habitat enhancement conducted where cost effective opportunities exist or population increase assured.	Emphasize management practices which provide habitat enhancement that will increase populations to the level of land capability.

Planning Issue No. 9, Wildlife

How shall special management for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species be coordinated wit other resources?

A. **Grizzly Bear Management,** B. **Other Species Management**		
Actions limited to compliance with the intent of the Endangered Species Act with emphasis on multiple use of resources.	Resource management emphasis to enhance opportunity for population expansion to land carrying capacity in critical habitats.	Resource maagement activities subordinate to reestablishment of T & E species historic populations on historic habitats.
C. **Studies and Coordination with Other Agencies**		
In minimum coordination with other agencies.	Continue ongoing studies and coordination with involved agencies.	Expand studies and agency coordination in order to broaden knowledge to habitat needs. Population dynamics, carrying capacity, etc.

Planning Issue No. 10, Range

How should the Targhee National Forest provide a grazing resource while protecting other resources?

A. **Amount of Use**		
Eliminate grazing where conflicts with other resource uses occurs and cannot be readily coordinated.	Maintain current grazing use at the level of land suitability	Expand grazing use through development of range improvements and implementation of grazing management systems to maximum carrying capacity.
B. **Allotment Improvements**		
No additional allotment improvements.	Maintain current level of use; enhance range conditions via allotment improvements.	Expand grazing use through allotment improvements to maximum carrying capacity.
C. **Predator Control**		
Phase out all forms of predator control.	Continued use of environmentally acceptable predator control measures.	Intensify predator control programs using all legally available measures to accomplish.
D. **Other Resource Protection**		
Grazing use subordinate to other conflicting resource uses. Resource protection emphasis.	Grazing use balanced with other resource uses. Resource impacts minimized.	Grazing use dominant to other conflicting resource uses. Resource protection a consideration but not emphasized.

Planning Issue No. 11, Transportation

How should the Targhee National Forest resolve the physical, economic and resource of road construction, use and closure?

A. **Open vs Closed**		
Close all roads not needed for forest adminstration.	Close roads when required for resource protection.	Improve roads causing resource impacts; limit closures to those needed for wildlife protection.
B. **New Construction**		
Restrict resource uses and activities that require extensive roading to be accomplished.	Roading program dictated by resource management needs.	Emphasize resource uses and activities that require extensive roading to be accomplished.
C. **Maintenance**		
Maintain roads to minimum level needed for Forest administration.	Maintain roads to the level needed for public access and Forest administration.	Maintain roads at the level needed to provide for public comfort and convenience.
D. **Enforcement**		
No enforcement patrols; activities limited to normal hours of work.	Enforcement emphasis during use periods when violations most frequent or likely to occur.	Year-round on the ground enforcement emphasis.

Planning Issue No. 12, Minerals

How can the Targhee National Forest identify, manage, and mitigate the impacts of exploration and development of mineral and nonrenewable resources?

A. **Utilization,** B. **Protection**		
Favor mineral exploration and development that would minimize surface resource tradeoffs.	Advocate mineral exploration and development when acceptable mitigation of surface resource impacts can be accomplished.	National need for mineral resources warrants low emphasis on protection of surface resource values. Maximum resource tradeoffs mineral development becomes the dominant land use in areas of high mineral value.

Planning Issue No. 13, Fire Management

How much protection from wildfire and how much use of prescribed fire is necessary to meet resource management objectives?

A. **Wildfire**		
Promptly suppress all wildfire.	Allow wildfires to burn as long as they conform to the fire prescription for the area.	Control fires where resource values threatened exceed suppression costs.
B. Prescribed Fires		
No prescribed fires.	Prescribed fire programs limited to wildlife habitat and range improvement projects less than 1000 acres/year. To maintain a diverse mix of vegetation.	Aggressive prescribed burning program occuring throughout the Forest when surface resource benefits can be generated.

Planning Issue No. 14, Soil and Water

What protection should the Targhee National Forest provide for soil and water resources with increasing impacts from other resource utilization?

A. **Water**		
No water quality degradation from Forest Service developments or activities.	Short-term water quality degradation, 3-5 years in duration. From Forest Service developments or activities.	Long-term water quality degradation. Greater than 5 years in duration, from forest service developments or activities.
B. Soil		
Soil resource protected; impacts minimized at the expense of resource use and development.	Impacts on soil resources considered in planning and mitigated as resource use and development occurs.	Impacts on soil resources given low priority on planning; mitigation of impacts from resource use and development not emphasized.

Planning Issue No. 15, Cultural Resources

How should cultural resource, Research Natural Areas, and other unique features be coordinated in the management of other resources?

Preserve all identified cultural resources and unique features; establish Research Natural Areas in each ecosystem recognized on the forest.	Preserve all identified major cultural resources and regionally unique areas; establish a Research Natural Area in regionally significant ecosystems.	Meet minimum acceptable levei of compliance with Antiquities Act; establish Research Natural Areas in nationally significant ecosystems.

Planning Issue No. 16, Further Planning Areas

How will Rare II further planning areas be managed?

Protect wilderness qualities of further planning areas until decision on final disposition made; no surface disturbing activities permitted.	Surface disturbing activities permitted in further planning areas only where wilderness qualities can be protected.	Surface disturbing activities permitted in further planning areas of impacts on wilderness qualities can be mitigated.

Planning Ussue No. 17, Wilderness

How can wilderness values of areas recommended as wilderness to congress in Rare II be maintained or enhanced in view of steadily increasing impacts?

Prohibit all activities incompatible with the preservation of wilderness environment.	Implement use restriction management practices that will mitigate impacts on the wilderness environment.	To the extent possible, mititgate impacts on the wilderness environment through public education and rehabilitation programs while accommodating use.

Planning Issue No. 18, Public Information and Education

What types of public information and education programs should the Targhee National Forest provide?

Public information and education programs limited to meeting minimum requirements of law and regulation. Responds to crisis situations only.	Concurrently use public contacts, media, environmental education and community relations opportunities for public information and education programs.	Program emphasis with full utilization of public contacts, media, environmental education and community relations opportunities.

Planning Issues No. 19, Law Enforcement

What law enforcement activities should be emphasized by the Targhee National Forest?

Law enforcement limited to control of criminal activities detected during normal work activities.	Respond to day to day enforcement problems. Education and prevention secondary to enforcement. Limited use of special enforcement patrols.	Emphasis on education and prevention programs and enforcement of all laws and regulations with full time enforcement personnel.

Planning Issue No. 20, Human Resource

To what extent should the Targhee National Forest use human resources programs to accomplish its mission?

Discontinue human resources programs.	Maintain human resource programs at present levels.	Expand human resource programs to the limit of available work.

"There are many great interests on the National Forest which sometimes conflict a little. They must all be made to fit into one another so that the machine runs smoothly as a whole. It is often necessary for one man to give way a little here, another a little there. But by giving way a little at present they both profit by it a great deal in the end.

National Forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good the people must make clear how they want them run."

Gifford Pinchot
June 14, 1907